

# Adornment

## Public Art Project Fact Sheet



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Photo: Craig Smith

**Title:** Adornment

**Location:** Kiwanis Park overlooking Kiwanis Lake

**Artist:** Michael Anderson

**Completion:** 1998

**Medium:** Patinated plate steel, flagstone and concrete

**Description:** "Adornment" is a tribute to Sara Smith, a long-time Tempe art advocate and jewelry maker. She was a self-employed jewelry designer for 15 years and owned and operated Gold Design by Sara. She also served on the Board of Arizona Designer Craftsmen and Fine Arts Center of Tempe and managed the art center's gift shop. The commemoration project consists of three life size sculptures that resemble Smith's creative jewelry. The sculptures are constructed of patinated plate-steel and are strewn over the Kiwanis Park site almost as if they are lying in a jewelry box or out on a dresser. Each piece is securely anchored into concrete. The design also includes a chain-like, concrete walkway and stone inlay connecting to a pendant-shaped ramada with three stone seats.

**Funding:** The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds.

**Artist biography:** Michael Anderson was born in California and grew up in Texas and Nebraska. After moving to Arizona in 1964, he studied fine art at Phoenix College and Arizona State University, before becoming a professional sculptor in the early 70's. Anderson has created work in different media, but is most recognized for his gracefully sweeping artworks in steel. His works are in public and private collections across the United States and in foreign countries such as Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, Australia and Zaire. Michael also has completed more than 30 public commissions in Arizona, including Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Superstition Springs Mall, Memorial Hospital and the Scottsdale Center for the Arts.

**Artist statement:** Having worked with several cities on different art projects in recent years, I find particular pleasure in projects that are people friendly, and involve people participation, i.e., art that is not only visually stimulating but also practical.